

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-62. (canceled)

63. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:7);~~

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:7), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

[(c)] (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain coding sequence from within the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:7 shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:7);~~

(d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:7), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

[(e)] (b) ~~the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 shown in Figure 3 (SEQ ID NO:6);~~

[(f)] (c) ~~the full-length coding sequence from within of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 shown in Figure 3 (SEQ ID NO:6); or~~

[(g)] (d) ~~the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209786.~~

64. (canceled)

65. (canceled)

66. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 63 comprising ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain coding sequence from within the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:7 shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:7).~~

67. (canceled)

68. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 63 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 shown in Figure 3 (SEQ ID NO:6).

69. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 63 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 shown in Figure 3 (SEQ ID NO:6).

70. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 63 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209786.

71. (canceled)

72. (canceled)

73. (canceled)

74. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 63 [[58]].

75. (previously presented) The vector of Claim 74, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

76. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 74.

77. (previously presented) The host cell of Claim 76, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

78. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule at least 20 nucleotides in length that specifically hybridizes under stringent conditions to:

(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 or a complement thereof;  
(b) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209786 or a complement thereof;

wherein, said stringent conditions use 50% formamide, 5 x SSC, 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon

sperm DNA (50  $\mu$ g/ml), 0.1% SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42 °C, with washes at 42 °C in 0.2 x SSC and 50% formamide at 55 °C, followed by a wash comprising of 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55 °C.

79. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 78 that is at least 50 nucleotides.

80. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 78 that is at least 60 nucleotides.

81. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 78 that is at least 70 nucleotides.

82. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 78 that is at least 80 nucleotides.

83. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 78 that is at least 90 nucleotides.

84. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 78 that is at least 100 nucleotides.